

Serial No. 09/853,044
Amdt. dated August 31, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 8, 2004

Docket No. CIT/K-0146

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are amended. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct an informality. No new matter is added. Further, Figs. 4 and 5 have been amended to address the objection noted in the Office Action. Replacement sheets that include corrected Figs. 4 and 5 are attached. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Unless otherwise indicated in the remarks set forth below, the amendments to the claims are made for the purpose of correcting informalities and/or to more clearly define the claimed invention and are not made for the purpose of overcoming the cited art.

The Office Action objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) because of informalities. Element label "35" in Fig. 4 has been changed to --36--, as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because some reference signs are missing or are incorrect. The specification and Fig. 5 have been amended to address these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

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Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the term “aspectogram” in claims 3-5 and 7-8 is not properly defined in the specification, and the accepted meaning not found in the dictionary or the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the term “aspectogram” is an established term of art in the area of integral photography, which is discussed in the Description of the Related Art section of the application (see page 2, line 19 to page 4, line 24). However, in order to improve the clarity of the claims and to expedite prosecution, the term “aspectogram” has been removed from claims 3-5 and 7-8.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,460 to Kodama. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kodama fails to disclose every claimed feature, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Kodama discloses a head-mounted image display system which utilizes a pair of LCD displays that are used to project images onto the left and right retinas of a user in order to create a virtual image of a scene. However, the virtual image created by the head-mounted display of Kodama is not a three-dimensional image. In order to create three-dimensional images with this type of LCD display, the left and right images must be temporally divided using a liquid crystal shutter. There is no teaching or suggestion as to the use of liquid crystal shutters to temporally divide the left and right images in Kodama. Thus, Kodama is directed to a traditional two-dimensional head-mounted display.

The head-mounted display of Kodama is adapted so that the two-dimensional image is moved as the user's head is moved, so that the virtual two-dimensional image can be perceived by the user to be substantially stationary as the user's head is moved.

In contrast, claims 1, 4 and 7 recite an apparatus for displaying a three-dimensional image of a scene, which is synthesized from multiple two-dimensional microimages of the scene, comprising a detector that detects a position of an observer's head, and one or more elements for manipulating the microimages in accordance with a signal from the detector. Claim 9 recites a method for displaying a three-dimensional image of a scene, which is generated by synthesizing two-dimensional microimages of the scene, comprising determining a position of an observer's head, and adjusting a viewing zone of the three-dimensional image and/or compensating distortion of the three-dimensional image, in accordance with the calculated position of the observer's head.

Kodama fails to teach or suggest these features, because Kodama is directed to a display device for displaying a two-dimensional image. Thus, Kodama fails to teach or suggest adjusting a viewing zone of a three-dimensional image or compensating distortion of a three-dimensional image.

Accordingly, for at least the reason set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Kodama fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 1, 4, 7 and 9. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4, claim 8 depends from claim 7 and claims 10

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and 11 depend from claim 9. Thus, these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons as well as for the additional features they recite.

For example, claim 3 recites that the compensator is a viewing adjust engine which adjusts the viewing zone of the three-dimensional image by moving the microimages in accordance with a signal input from the head position detector, or a device which regenerates the multiple microimages of the scene in accordance with the signal input from the head position detector to compensate distortion of the three-dimensional image. Kodama fails to teach or suggest these features, because Kodama does not synthesize a three-dimensional image from multiple two-dimensional images. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that added claims 12-23 are allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

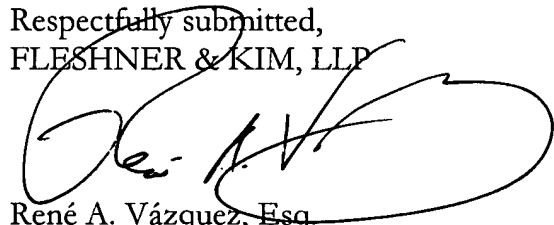
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, René A. Vázquez, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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